

Renewable Energy in California:

Implementing the Governors Renewable
Energy Executive Order

***The Renewable Energy Action Team (REAT) and Desert
Renewable Energy Conservation Plan***

California Biodiversity Council
March 19, 2009
EL Centro, California



California Energy Commission



Department of Fish and Game



Fish and Wildlife Service



Bureau of Land Management

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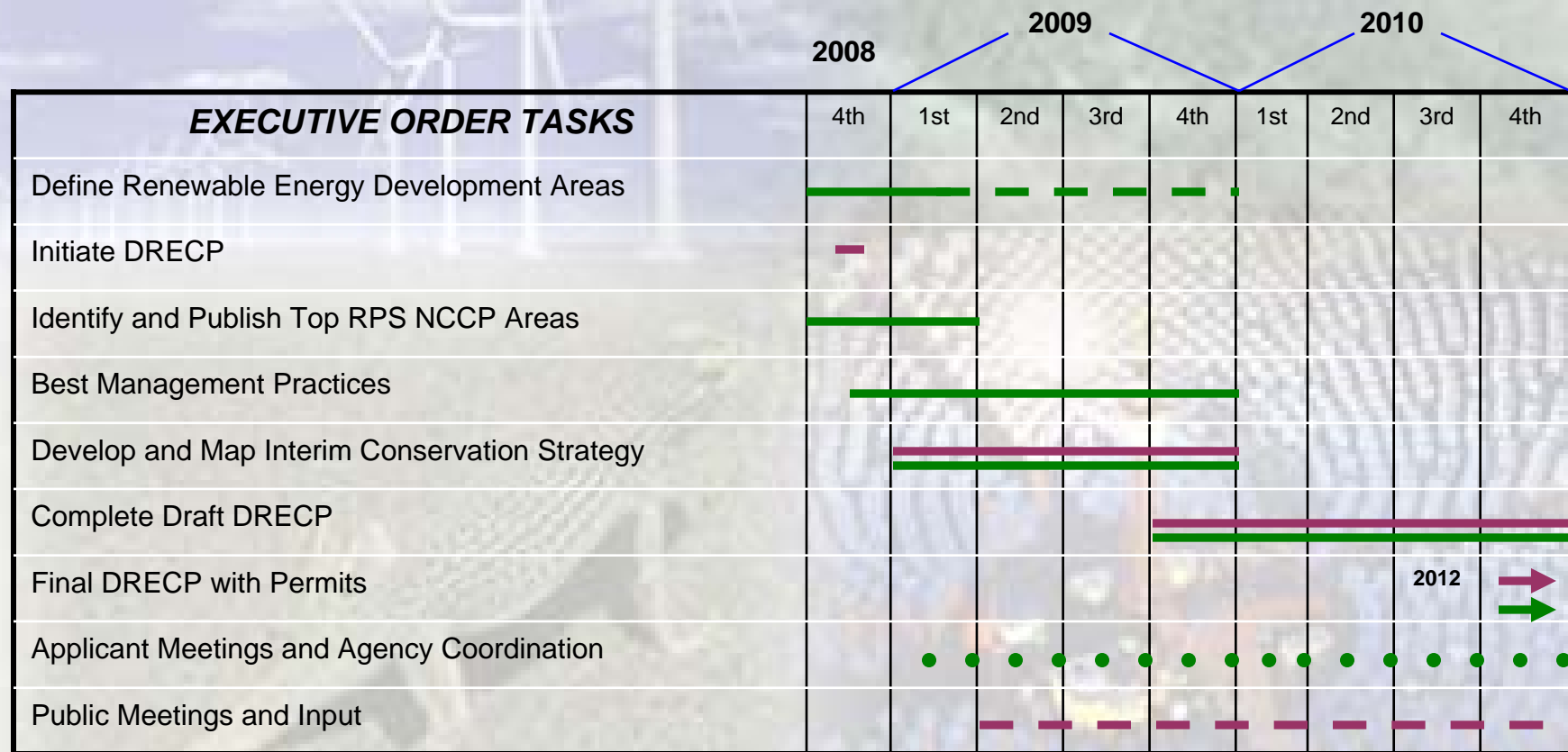
Implementing the Governors Renewable Energy Executive Order

The Renewable Energy Executive Order, signed November 17, 2009, established in policy a new 33% renewable energy portfolio standard for California and directed state Departments, specifically the California Department of Fish and Game and Energy Commission to collaborate to streamline renewable energy project permitting and review. Generally, the EO:

- Established the Renewable Energy Action Team (REAT)
- Identified several actions intended to reduce permit review and issuance time
- Called for increased coordination with the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Required development of a Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP)
- Identified RETI and the WREZ efforts as focus areas for collaboration

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[Green Bar] REAT

[Purple Bar] DRECP

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The Executive Order is intended to provide a more predictable and streamlined regulatory compliance framework while completing a conservation plan that will balance renewable energy development with natural resource conservation

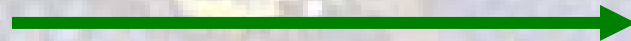
Establish and operate REAT



Create tools and collect and interpret data

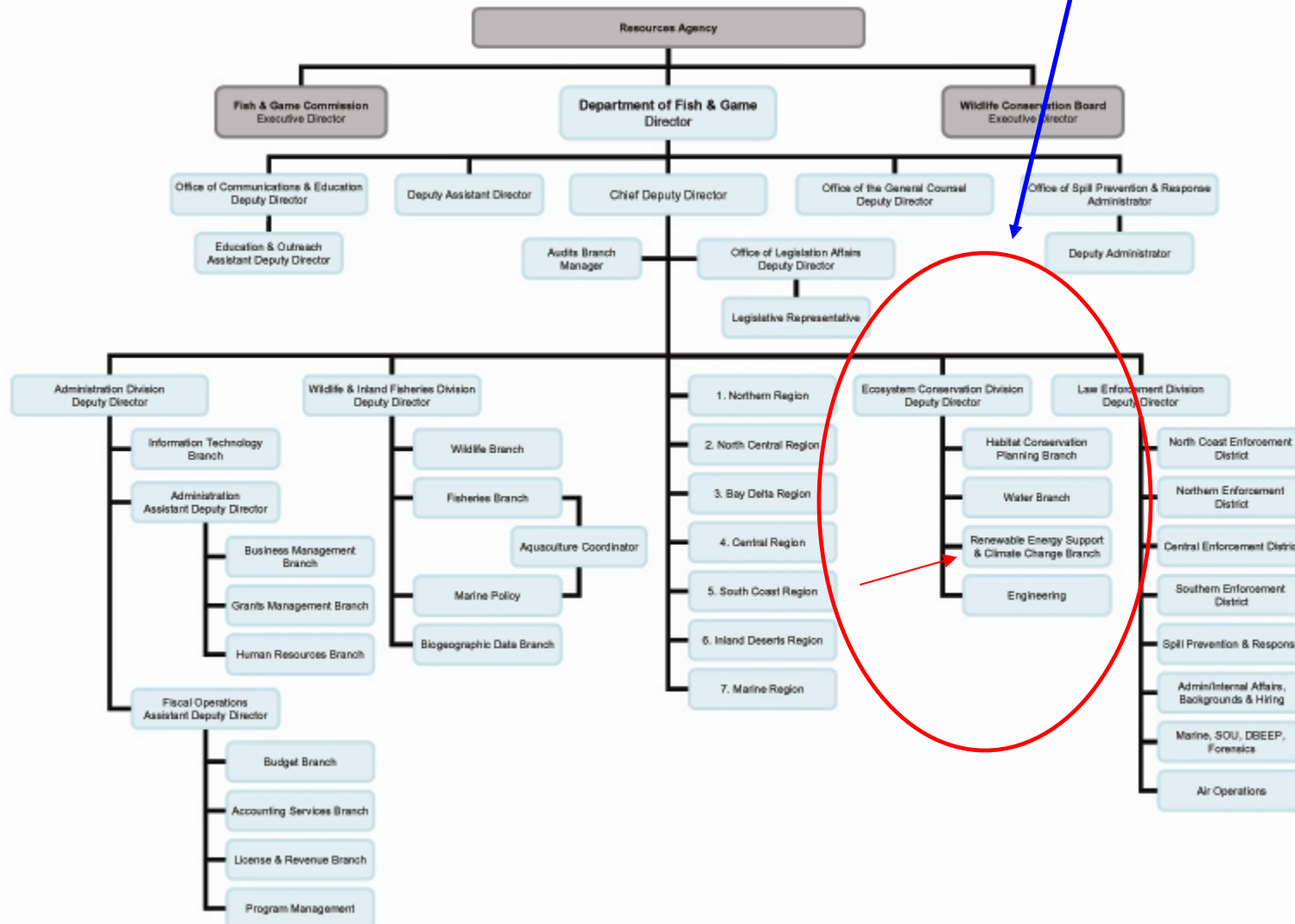


Develop Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan



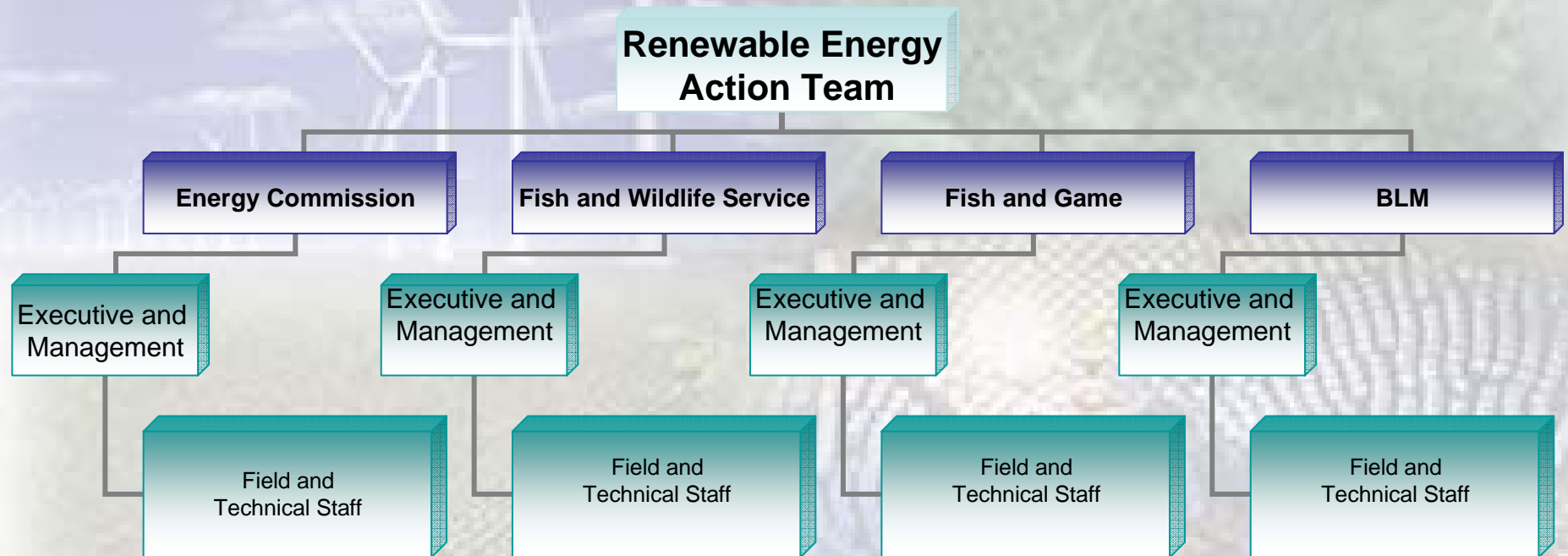
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Element 3: Department Reorganization



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Renewable Energy Action Team

- Comprised of the four MOU signatory agencies
- Holds “top to bottom” meetings every other week to address policy and process issues
- Primary function is to coordinate permitting and process activities among agencies
- Reports to policy team comprised of the Natural Resources Agency, Commissioners, and Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management directors
- Working technical unit for implementing the Executive Order



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The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

- Designed as a Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP)
- Identify geographic areas designated for RPS project development
- Identify areas for conservation and declining species management
- Focuses on the Mojave and Colorado desert regions
- Goal is to coordinate and consider desert land uses and relevant stakeholder concerns during the planning process

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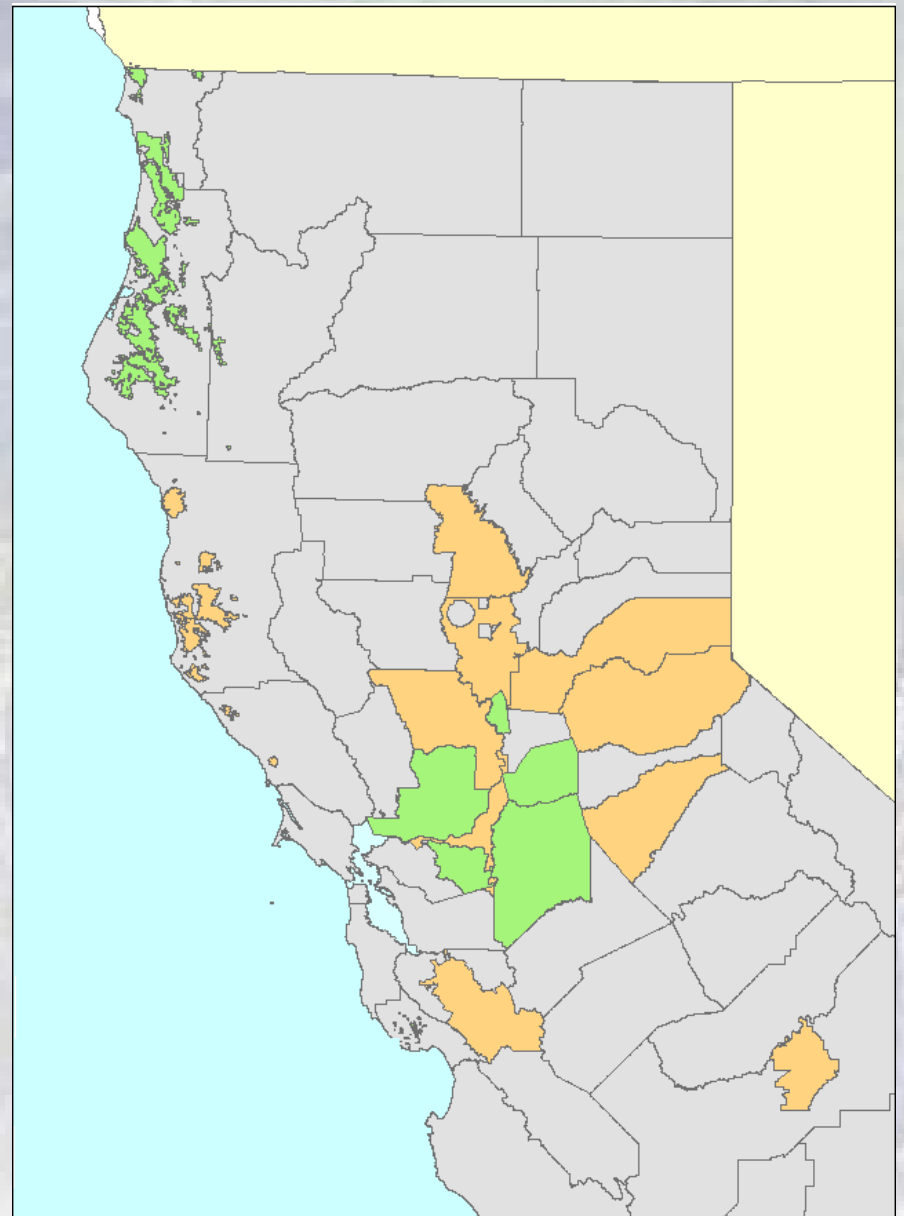
Natural Community Conservation Plans (Northern California)



In the Planning Process



Completed



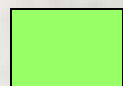
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Natural Community Conservation Plans (Southern California)



In the Planning Process



Completed

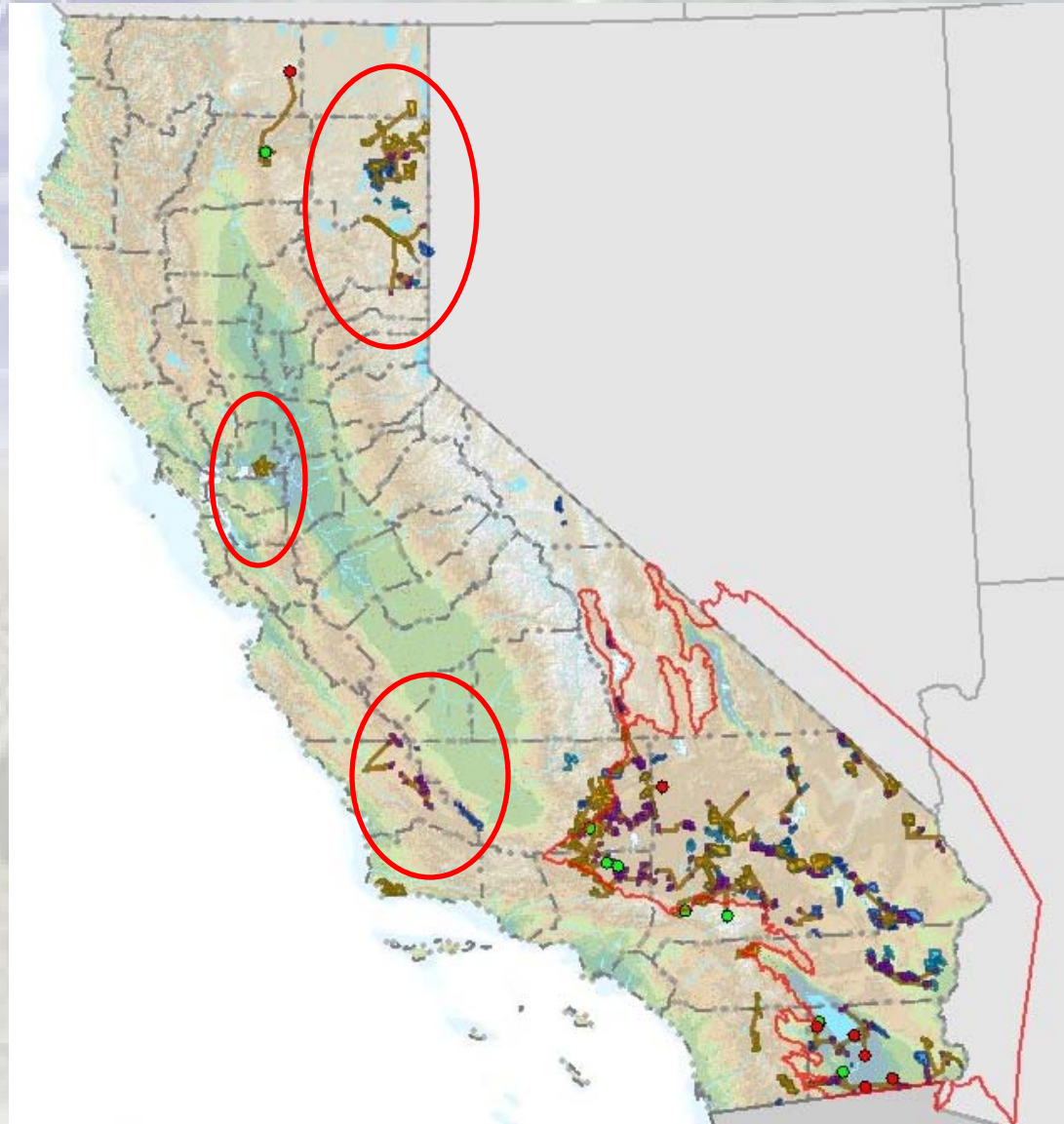


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EO Element 8:
NCCP Priorities

- Current focus is on the desert with development of the DRECP
- Future development of NCCPs for RPS projects will focus on the Modoc Plateau and the Carrizo Plain
- Initial planning for an NCCP underway for the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area



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EO Elements 10-12:
The DRECP

The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

- Includes the Mojave and Colorado Desert ecoregions
- Parts of six counties
- Focus is on Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) projects



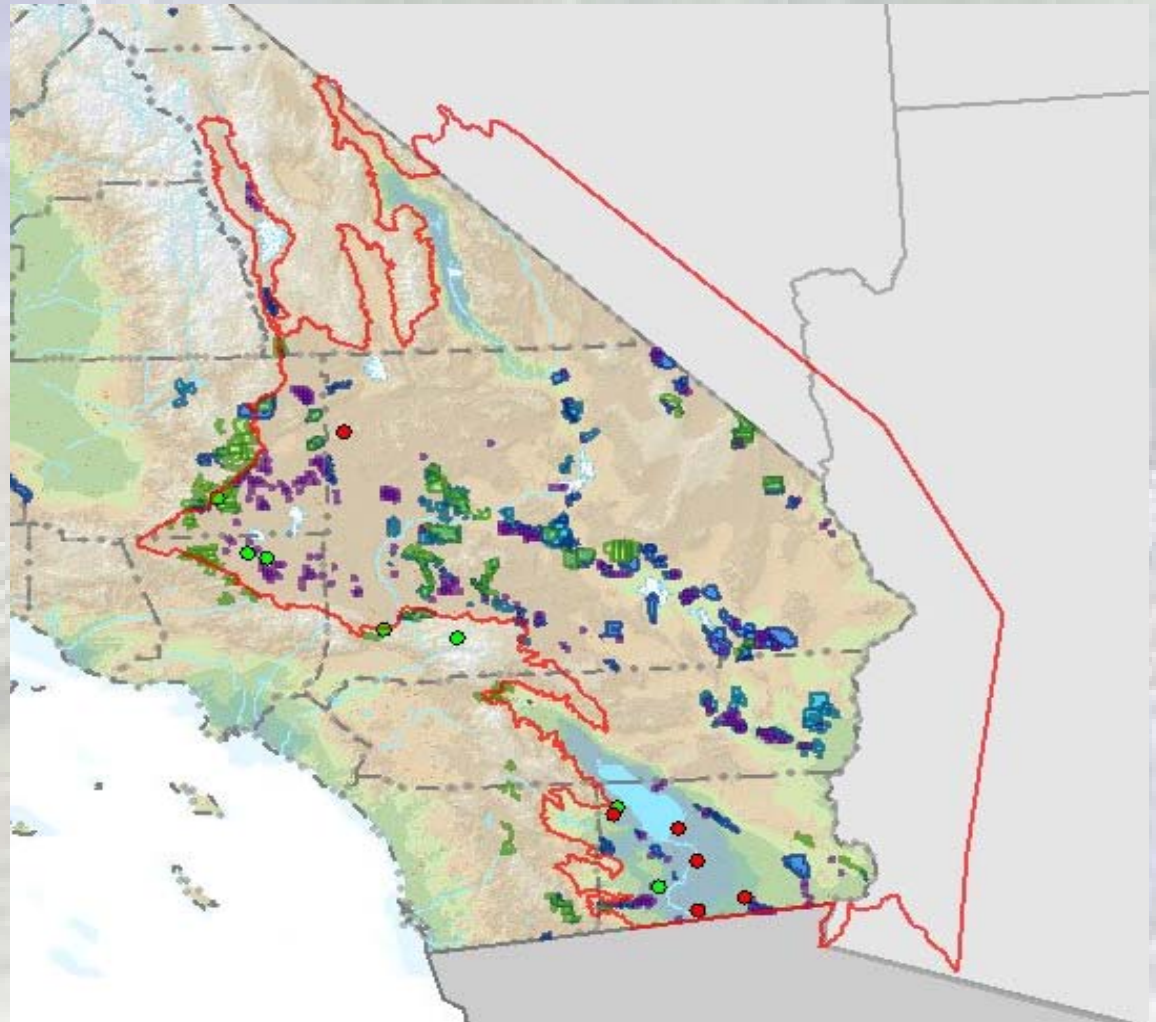
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EO Elements 10-12:
The DRECP

The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

- Designed to incorporate existing and potential project areas
- Specific covered activities (RPS projects) drive permit coverage
- RETI results will modify and help direct covered activity area design



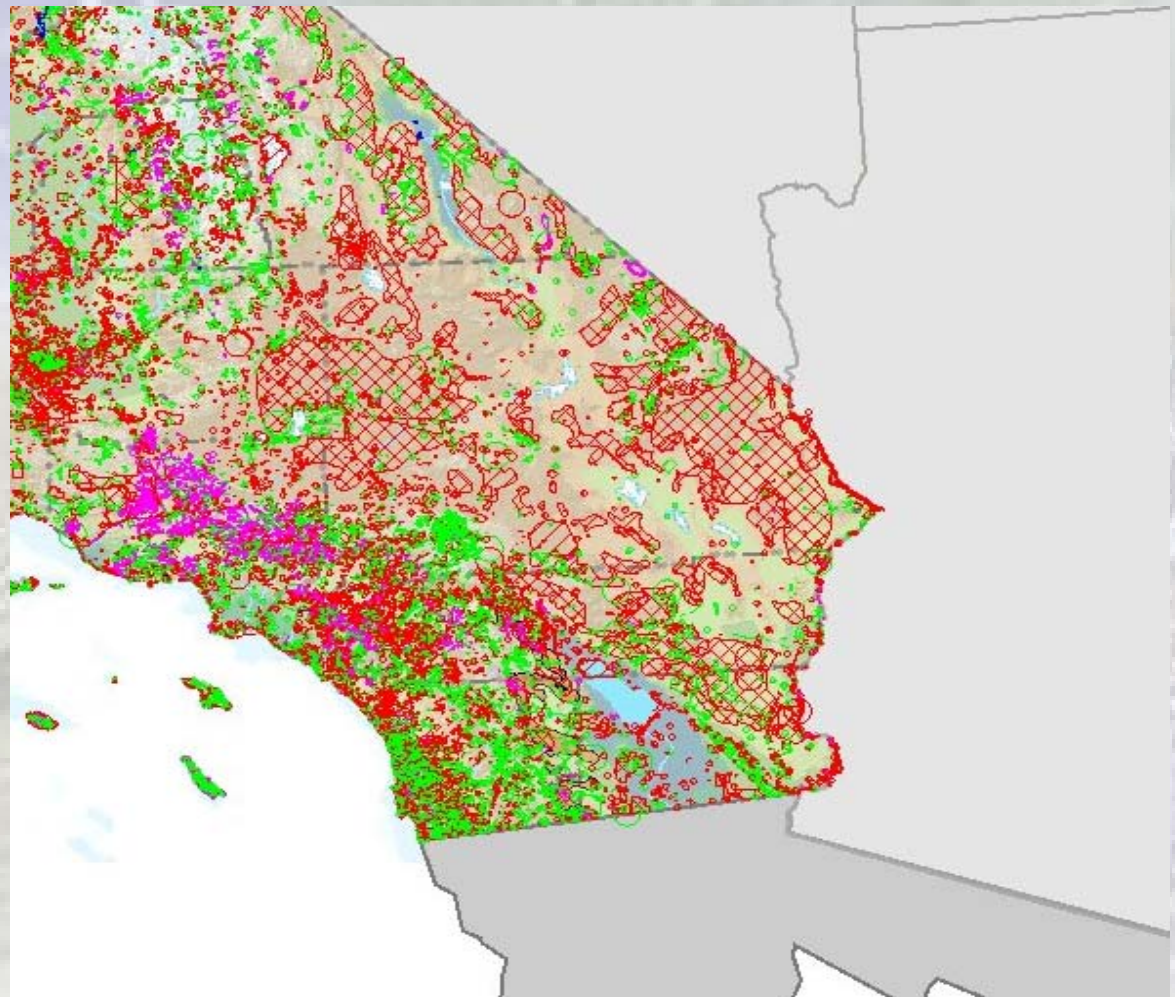
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EO Elements 10-12:
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The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

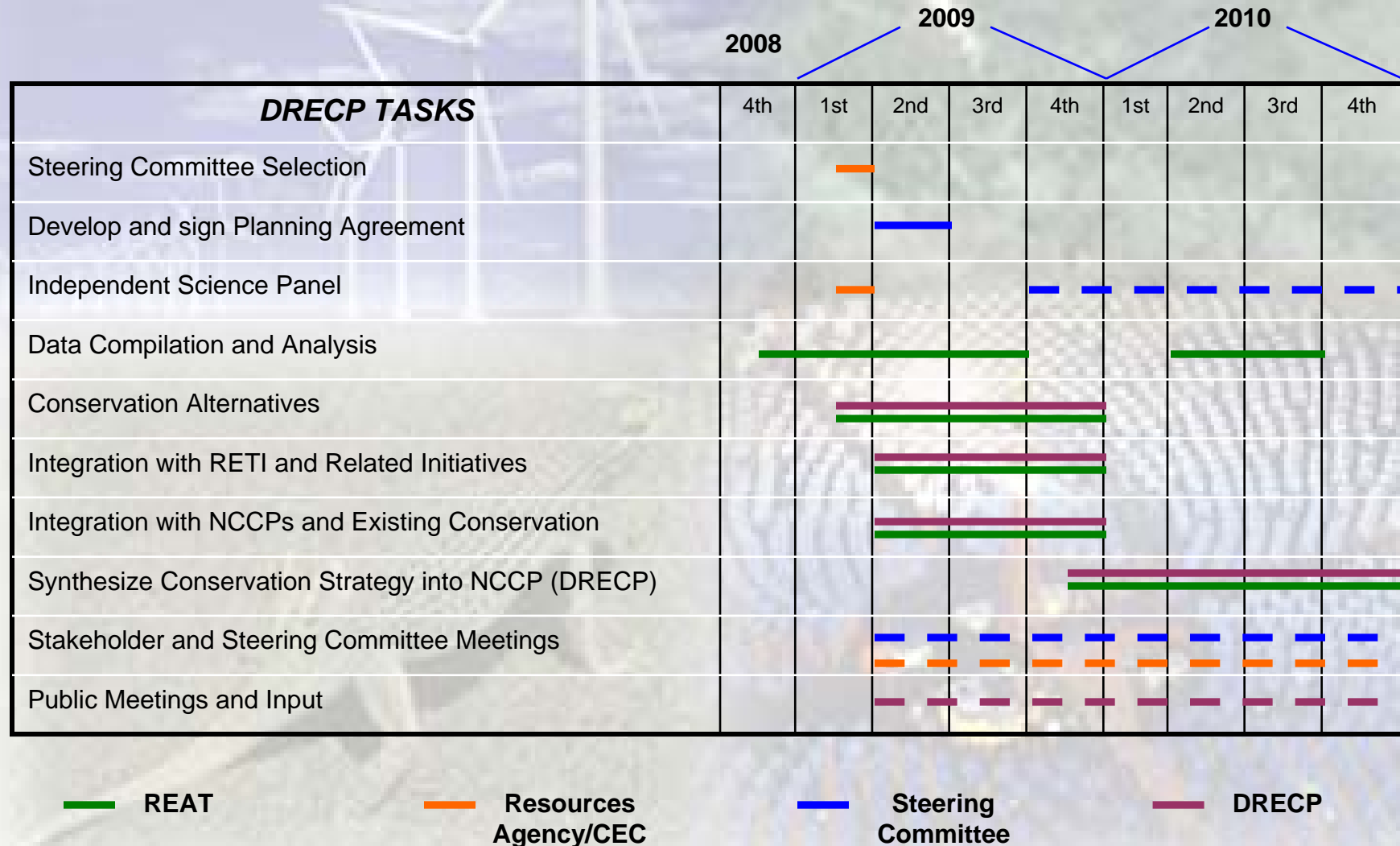
- Incorporates best existing biological data
- Conservation area designation will consider many factors
- Data quality, extent, and availability will be key!



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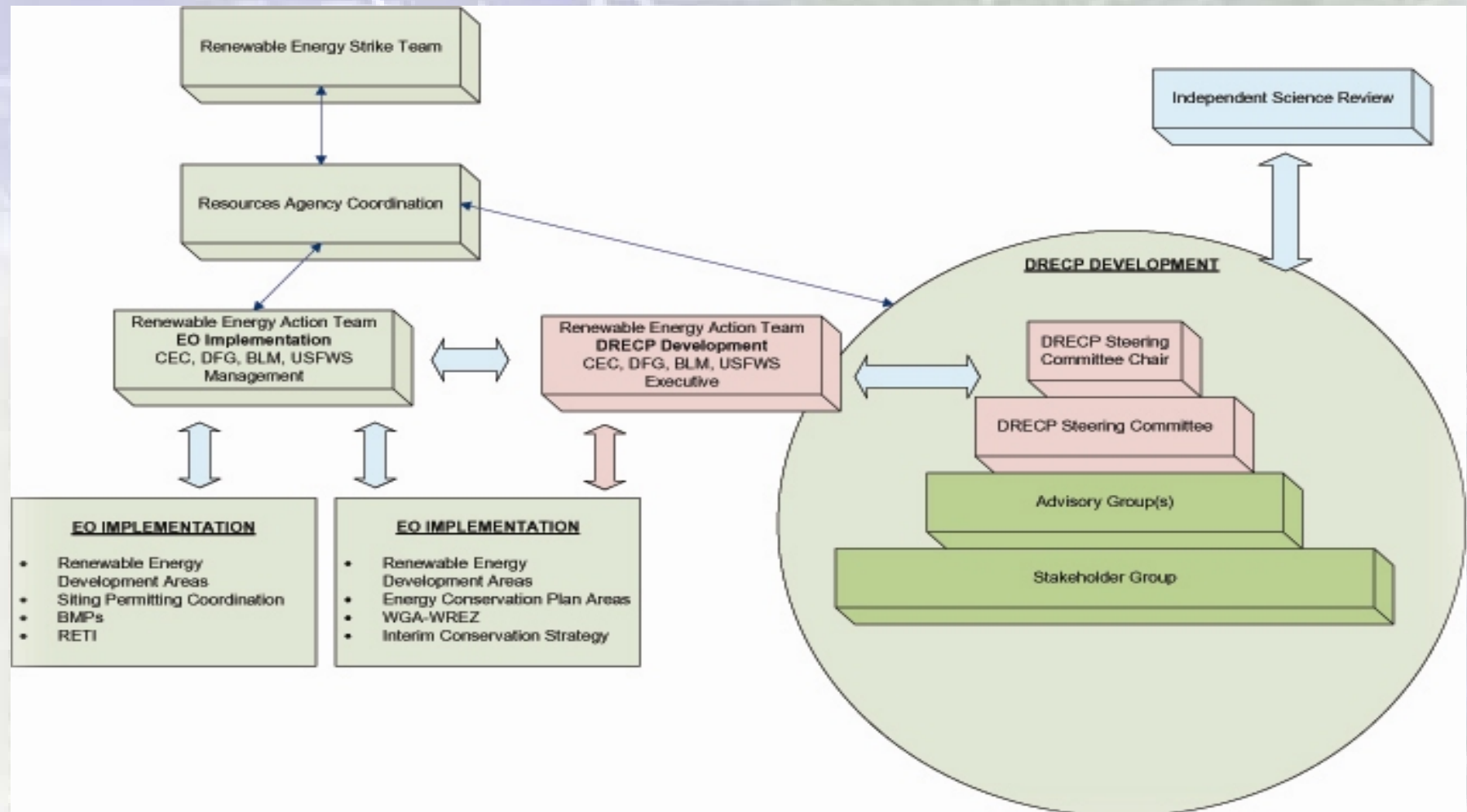
EO Elements 10-12:
The DRECP




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REAT, REST, and
The DRECP

Conceptual Agency and Team Organization



The background of the slide is a composite image. The upper portion features several white wind turbines against a clear blue sky. The lower portion shows a person wearing a wide-brimmed hat and a light-colored shirt, standing in a field of tall, dry grass. The overall image has a slightly faded, artistic quality.

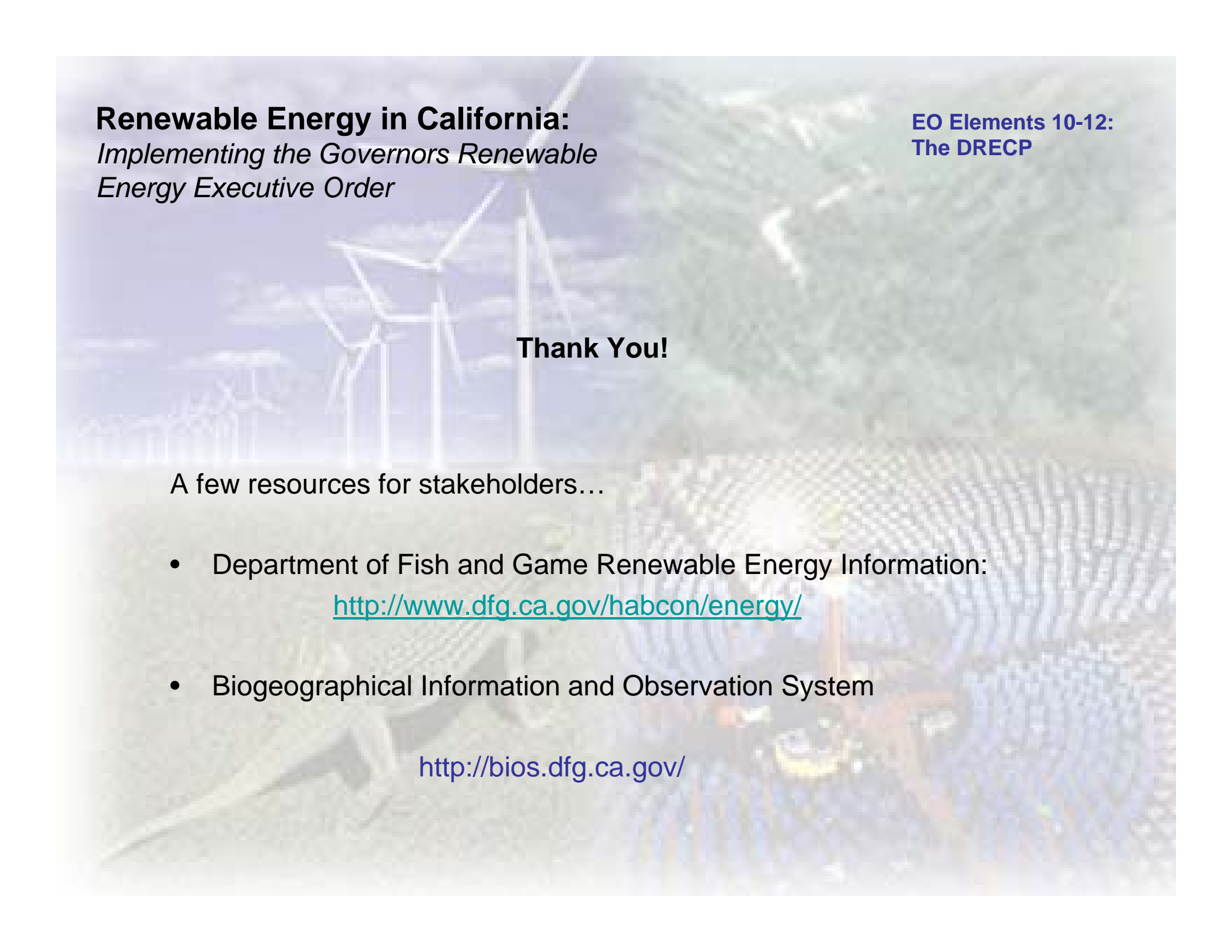
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**EO Elements 10-12:
The DRECP**

Challenges to Implementing the Executive Order:

- Overcoming multi-agency culture and process impediments to create a seamless and integrated permitting process
- Integration of, and coordination with, current renewable energy and transmission planning efforts
- Aggressive time frame
- Meeting complex and evolving conservation objectives over multiple land owners and land uses



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EO Elements 10-12:
The DRECP

Thank You!

A few resources for stakeholders...

- Department of Fish and Game Renewable Energy Information:
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/energy/>
- Biogeographical Information and Observation System

<http://bios.dfg.ca.gov/>